



### THE ADVANCING RECOVERY IN MISSOURI PROJECT

#### Advancing Recovery – a Unique Opportunity<sup>1</sup>

Advancing Recovery (AR) is a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation initiative implemented through the Network for the Improvement of Addiction Treatment that promotes the use of evidence-based practices in clinical settings. AR funding supports the process of promoting innovative partnerships between providers and state agencies that maximize the implementation of proven addiction treatment practices and improve consumers' outcomes.

#### What is an Evidence-Based Practice?<sup>2</sup>

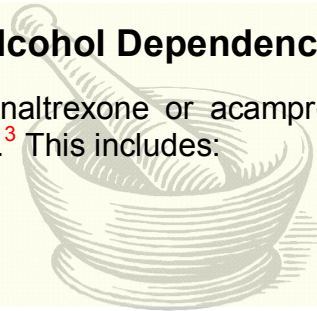
An evidence-based practice:

- ✓ is supported by empirical data from acceptable scientific standards, and
- ✓ has a level of efficacy worthy of application on a large scale.

#### Benefits of Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) for Alcohol Dependence/Abuse

Individuals with alcohol-dependence who have been treated with naltrexone or acamprosate may experience modest to pronounced reduction in alcohol consumptions.<sup>3</sup> This includes:

- ♦ Less craving for alcohol,
- ♦ Increased abstinence and fewer relapses, and
- ♦ Drinking less during bouts of alcohol consumption.



#### What is Missouri Trying to Accomplish?

**GOAL 1:** Increase the number of consumers with alcohol dependence/abuse in ADA-supported treatment who are treated with naltrexone or acamprosate.

**GOAL 2:** Improve efficacy of ADA-supported treatment.

**GOAL 3:** Reduce relapse among consumers admitted to ADA-supported treatment.

**GOAL 4:** Improve National Outcome Measures (such as abstinence, employment, legal involvement) among consumers admitted to ADA-supported treatment.

#### What has been done in Missouri?<sup>4</sup>

The Department of Mental Health & participating providers of ADA-supported treatment have:

- ✓ amended contracts to reimburse providers for medication evaluation and prescription,
- ✓ made naltrexone directly available through the state pharmacy,
- ✓ educated treatment staff, consumers, and their families regarding the benefits of MAT as viable – and early – treatment option,
- ✓ begun consumer support groups for those receiving MAT, and
- ✓ facilitated DMH-provider communication through a project-specific website.

1. Advancing Recovery. The Network for the Improvement of Addiction Treatment (NIATx). University of Wisconsin-Madison.  
2. Evidence Based Practice. National Resource Center for Family-Centered Practice and Permanency Planning. Hunter College, School of Social Work.  
3. 2005. Fuller, BE, et al. Adoption of naltrexone to treat alcohol dependence. Journal of Substance Abuse Treatment. 28:273-280.  
4. Advancing Recovery in Missouri. Storyboard. NIATx Summit, April 23-25 2007. San Antonio, Tx.